PATENT
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:	Stephen LOWENSTEIN et al.
U.S. Serial No.:	Filed Concurrently Herewith
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Priority Date Claimed:	7 April 2000
Title of Invention:	MEDIA TRANSACTION PROCESSOR

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Box Patent Application (35 U.S.C. 111)
P.O. Box 2327
Arlington, VA 22202

Sir:

Before the issuance of the first Office Action, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, before line 1, add the following:

--This is a continuation of copending International Application PCT/GB01/01493 having an international filing date of 2 April 2001.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 31 - 34.

Please amend Claims 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 28, 29, and 30 as follows:

3. (Amended) A multimedia transaction processor as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the multimedia material stored in said media server is arranged to include impairments.

5. (Amended) A multimedia transaction processor as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said selection data includes an indication of a selected part of said selected multimedia item, said communications processor being operable in combination with said transaction controller to complete said sales transaction by debiting an amount of money corresponding to said selected part of said media item, with respect to the total cost of said selected media item.

6. (Amended) A multimedia transaction processor as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said server is arranged to store business rules data representative of the conditions for the sale of said selected multimedia material items, said access processor communicating said conditions of sale data to said buyer in response to one of said selection data and said requesting data.

7. (Amended) A multimedia transaction processor as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said access processor is operable in response to said selection data to generate and to store data representing the number of times buyers select said multimedia material items.

9. (Amended) A multimedia transaction processor as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said access processor is operable to receive catalogue data representing a list of multimedia material items provided by a vendor divided into predetermined categories, said catalogue data being communicated on request to a buyer data processing system.

10. (Amended) A multimedia transaction processor as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said media server is arranged to store data representative of advertising material, and said access

processor is operable to communicate said advertising data to said buyer data processing system in response to said request data.

11. (Amended) A multimedia transaction processor as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said request data comprises at least one data value and an indication of which of said types of meta data said data value corresponds, said access processor being operable to search said server for said possible multimedia content items by searching for values corresponding to said data value for said meta data type corresponding to said indication.

12. (Amended) A multimedia transaction processor as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said access processor is operable to generate at least one meta data value for at least one meta data type from said request data, and to retrieve said possible multimedia content items by searching said server for multimedia content items having meta data values corresponding to said at least one generated meta data value.

13. (Amended) A multimedia transaction processor as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said access processor is operable to compare said request data with meta data stored in said server and to retrieve meta data which corresponds with said request data, and to operate in combination with said communications processor to communicate said retrieved meta data to said buyer data processing systems, said access processor being operable to retrieve multimedia content items corresponding to selected retrieved meta data received from a buyer user data processing system.

14. (Amended) A multimedia transaction processor as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said transaction controller includes an account management system operable to store data representative of bank accounts of said buyer and said vendor, and consequent upon receipt of said selection data, to complete said transaction by transfering money to be charged to said bank account of said vendor from the bank account of said buyer, said amount of money being determined in dependence upon said pre-stored cost of buying said selected multimedia content items.

15. (Amended) A multimedia transaction processor as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said multimedia material includes one of data, video data, audio data and audio/video data.

16. (Amended) A multimedia processing system comprising

a multimedia transaction processor as claimed in Claim 1,

a plurality of data processing systems coupled to said transaction processor via a data communications network.

17. (Amended) A multimedia processing system as claimed in Claim 16, wherein said data communications network includes the Internet.

18. (Amended) A method of vending multimedia material, said method comprising the steps of

- identifying said multimedia material to be sold,
- generating meta data describing the content of said multimedia material,
- generating data representing a predetermined price for the sale of said multimedia material,
- associating data representative of the owner of said multimedia material, with said multimedia material and said meta data,
- arranging for said multimedia material, said meta data, said ownership data and said predetermined price for sale to be ingested by a media server of a multimedia transaction processor,
- arranging for buyers to establish a transaction account,
- providing a facility for said buyers to preview said multimedia material, to select desired items of multimedia material and to complete a transaction for said selected multimedia material items using said transaction account,
- arranging for said vendor to communicate said selected multimedia material items to said buyers.

19. (Amended) A method of buying multimedia material using a transaction processor having a media server operable to store multimedia material from at least one vendor,

meta data representing the content of the multimedia material and data identifying the vendor providing the multimedia material, said meta data and said identifying data being stored in association with said multimedia material, a communications processor connectable, via a communications link, to one or more data processing systems and operable to receive, via said communications link, from one of said data processing systems, data indicative of a request for multimedia content from a buyer, an access processor operable to retrieve from said server possible multimedia material content items corresponding to said requested multimedia content by generating meta data from said data requesting said multimedia content and comparing said generated meta data with the meta data stored in association with said multimedia material, and from the comparison retrieving said possible multimedia content items from said server, and to communicate to the buyer data processing system data representative of said possible multimedia content items, and a transaction controller operable, in response to selection data representative of a selection of at least one of said possible multimedia content items from said buyer, to communicate to said vendor identified by said stored identification, data ordering said selected multimedia content items, and to complete a sales transaction for the selected multimedia material with the buyer, said method comprising the steps of

- establishing an account with the account management system of said multimedia transaction processor,

- communicating data representative of a request for a desired multimedia material item to said transaction processor via a data communications network,

- receiving possible multimedia material items from said transaction processor,

- previewing said possible multimedia material items,

- selecting desired multimedia items,

- communicating data representative of said selection to said transaction processor,

- completing a transaction for the purchase of said selected multimedia material items, and

- arranging for the owner of said multimedia material to communicate said selected material items to said buyer.

22. (Amended) A transaction processor as claimed in Claim 20, wherein said media storage server is operable to maintain a copy of the requested media item at the storage server when a transfer to a user data processing system is made.

23. (Amended) A transaction processor as claimed in Claim 20, wherein the media storage server is operable to transfer the requested media item irrespective of the identity of the user of the client data processing system issuing the request.

24. (Amended) A transaction processor as claimed in Claim 20, wherein said media storage server is operable to store data representing a list of users to which transfers of the media items are authorised, the storage server not transferring a media item to a user if that user does not appear on the list of authorised users for that media item.

28. (Amended) A computer program providing computer executable instructions, which when loaded onto a computer configures the computer to operate as a multimedia transaction processor as claimed in Claim 1.

29. (Amended) A computer program providing computer executable instructions, which when loaded on to a computer causes the computer to perform the method according to Claim 18.

30. (Amended) A computer program product having a computer readable medium recorded thereon information signals representative of the computer program claimed in Claim 28.

Please add the following new claims 35 – 41 as follows:

35. (New) A computer program providing computer executable instructions, which when loaded on to a computer causes the computer to perform the method according to Claim 19.

36. (New) A computer program providing computer executable instructions, which when loaded on to a computer causes the computer to perform the method according to Claim 26.

37. (New) A computer program providing computer executable instructions, which when loaded on to a computer causes the computer to perform the method according to Claim 27.

38. (New) A computer program product having a computer readable medium recorded thereon information signals representative of the computer program claimed in Claim 29.

39. (New) A computer program product having a computer readable medium recorded thereon information signals representative of the computer program claimed in Claim 35.

40. (New) A computer program product having a computer readable medium recorded thereon information signals representative of the computer program claimed in Claim 36.

41. (New) A computer program product having a computer readable medium recorded thereon information signals representative of the computer program claimed in Claim 37.

REMARKS

This amendment is made to provide proper reference to the International application of which this is a continuation. See MPEP § 1895.01. The claims are amended to eliminate multiple claim dependencies. Attached hereto is a marked up version of the changes made by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to**

show changes made." The filing fee has been calculated in accordance with this Preliminary Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the claims:

Claims 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 28, 29, and 30 have been amended as follows:

3. (Amended) A multimedia transaction processor as claimed in Claim 1 [Claims 1 or 2], wherein the multimedia material stored in said media server is arranged to include impairments.

5. (Amended) A multimedia transaction processor as claimed in Claim 1 [any preceding Claim], wherein said selection data includes an indication of a selected part of said selected multimedia item, said communications processor being operable in combination with said transaction controller to complete said sales transaction by debiting an amount of money corresponding to said selected part of said media item, with respect to the total cost of said selected media item.

6. (Amended) A multimedia transaction processor as claimed in Claim 1 [any preceding Claim], wherein said server is arranged to store business rules data representative of the conditions for the sale of said selected multimedia material items, said access processor communicating said conditions of sale data to said buyer in response to one of said selection data and said requesting data.

7. (Amended) A multimedia transaction processor as claimed in Claim 1 [any preceding Claim], wherein said access processor is operable in response to said selection data to generate and to store data representing the number of times buyers select said multimedia material items.

9. (Amended) A multimedia transaction processor as claimed in Claim 1 [any preceding Claim], wherein said access processor is operable to receive catalogue data

representing a list of multimedia material items provided by a vendor divided into predetermined categories, said catalogue data being communicated on request to a buyer data processing system.

10. A multimedia transaction processor as claimed in Claim 1 [any preceding Claim], wherein said media server is arranged to store data representative of advertising material, and said access processor is operable to communicate said advertising data to said buyer data processing system in response to said request data.

11. A multimedia transaction processor as claimed in Claim 2 [any of Claims 2 to 10], wherein said request data comprises at least one data value and an indication of which of said types of meta data said data value corresponds, said access processor being operable to search said server for said possible multimedia content items by searching for values corresponding to said data value for said meta data type corresponding to said indication.

12. A multimedia transaction processor as claimed in Claim 2 [any of Claims 2 to 10], wherein said access processor is operable to generate at least one meta data value for at least one meta data type from said request data, and to retrieve said possible multimedia content items by searching said server for multimedia content items having meta data values corresponding to said at least one generated meta data value.

13. A multimedia transaction processor as claimed in Claim 1 [any preceding Claim], wherein said access processor is operable to compare said request data with meta data stored in said server and to retrieve meta data which corresponds with said request data, and to operate in combination with said communications processor to communicate said retrieved meta data to said buyer data processing systems, said access processor being operable to retrieve multimedia content items corresponding to selected retrieved meta data received from a buyer user data processing system.

14. A multimedia transaction processor as claimed in Claim 1 [any preceding Claim], wherein said transaction controller includes an account management system operable to store

data representative of bank accounts of said buyer and said vendor, and consequent upon receipt of said selection data, to complete said transaction by transfering money to be charged to said bank account of said vendor from the bank account of said buyer, said amount of money being determined in dependence upon said pre-stored cost of buying said selected multimedia content items.

15. A multimedia transaction processor as claimed in Claim 1 [any preceding Claim], wherein said multimedia material includes one of data, video data, audio data and audio/video data.

16. A multimedia processing system comprising

a multimedia transaction processor as claimed in Claim 1 [any preceding Claim],

a plurality of data processing systems coupled to said transaction processor via a data communications network.

17. A multimedia processing system as claimed in Claim 16 [15], wherein said data communications network includes the Internet.

18. A method of vending multimedia material, said method comprising the steps of

- identifying said multimedia material to be sold,

- generating meta data describing the content of said multimedia material,

- generating data representing a predetermined price for the sale of said multimedia material,

- associating data representative of the owner of said multimedia material, with said multimedia material and said meta data,

- arranging for said multimedia material, said meta data, said ownership data and said predetermined price for sale to be ingested by a [the] media server of a [the] multimedia transaction processor [of any of claims 1 to 15],

- arranging for buyers to establish a transaction account,

- providing a facility for said buyers to preview said multimedia material, to select desired items of multimedia material and to complete a transaction for said selected multimedia material items using said transaction account,

- arranging for said vendor to communicate said selected multimedia material items to said buyers.

19. A method of buying multimedia material using a [the] transaction processor [according to any of Claims 1 to 15,] having a media server operable to store multimedia material from at least one vendor, meta data representing the content of the multimedia material and data identifying the vendor providing the multimedia material, said meta data and said identifying data being stored in association with said multimedia material, a communications processor connectable, via a communications link, to one or more data processing systems and operable to receive, via said communications link, from one of said data processing systems, data indicative of a request for multimedia content from a buyer, an access processor operable to retrieve from said server possible multimedia material content items corresponding to said requested multimedia content by generating meta data from said data requesting said multimedia content and comparing said generated meta data with the meta data stored in association with said multimedia material, and from the comparison retrieving said possible multimedia content items from said server, and to communicate to the buyer data processing system data representative of said possible multimedia content items, and a transaction controller operable, in response to selection data representative of a selection of at least one of said possible multimedia content items from said buyer, to communicate to said vendor identified by said stored identification, data ordering said selected multimedia content items, and to complete a sales transaction for the selected multimedia material with the buyer, said method comprising the steps of

- establishing an account with the account management system of said multimedia transaction processor,

- communicating data representative of a request for a desired multimedia material item to said transaction processor via a data communications network,

- receiving possible multimedia material items from said transaction processor,

- previewing said possible multimedia material items,

- selecting desired multimedia items,

- communicating data representative of said selection to said transaction processor,

- completing a transaction for the purchase of said selected multimedia material items, and

- arranging for the owner of said multimedia material to communicate said selected material items to said buyer.

22. A transaction processor as claimed in Claim 20 [or Claim 21], wherein said media storage server is operable to maintain a copy of the requested media item at the storage server when a transfer to a user data processing system is made.

23. A transaction processor as claimed in Claim 20 [any of Claim 20 to 22], wherein the media storage server is operable to transfer the requested media item irrespective of the identity of the user of the client data processing system issuing the request.

24. A transaction processor as claimed in Claim 20 [any one of claims 20 to 23], wherein said media storage server is operable to store data representing a list of users to which transfers of the media items are authorised, the storage server not transferring a media item to a user if that user does not appear on the list of authorised users for that media item.

28. A computer program providing computer executable instructions, which when loaded onto a computer configures the computer to operate as a multimedia transaction processor as claimed in Claim 1 [any of Claims 1 to 15].

29. A computer program providing computer executable instructions, which when loaded on to a computer causes the computer to perform the method according to Claim 18 [Claims 18, 19, 26 or 27].

30. A computer program product having a computer readable medium recorded thereon information signals representative of the computer program claimed in Claim 28 [Claims 28 or 29].